

City of Brighton Historic Landmarks

LIST OF PROPERTIES ON THE LOCAL, STATE, OR NATIONAL
REGISTER OF LANDMARK PROPERTIES

City of Brighton Historic Preservation Commission
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE: 22 S. 4TH AVENUE



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

147 SOUTH 1ST AVENUE

Historic Significance

The first church to be established in Brighton was the Presbyterian. The Presbyterian homesteaders were the first organized religious body and the first denomination to erect a church building in Brighton. The first meeting was held in the Higgins Saloon in August of 1884, where planks were placed on top of beer kegs for the services. Later, they were held in the homes of the members until the original church was constructed in 1886. D.F. Carmichael and D.W. Strong, who are both seen as the founders of Brighton in their own way, were both elders of the church. D.W. Strong initially hosted the meetings in his home, and D.F. Carmichael deeded land to the Presbyterian Trustees of the church for the value of \$1.00.

**State Register
6/9/1999 5AM.65**

**First church
established in
Brighton in 1884**

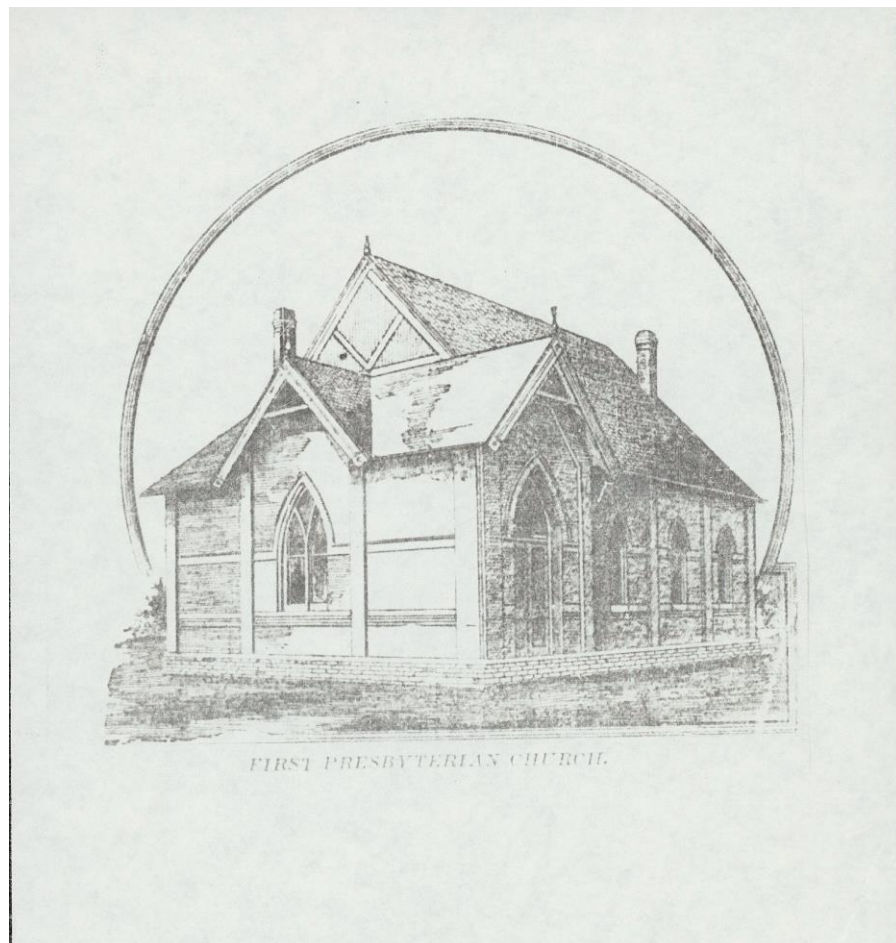
**Built in 1886 one
year before town
was incorporated**

**Bell tower added
in 1890**

**Founders of
Brighton served on
initial elders board**

Architectural Description:

Constructed in 1886, the First Presbyterian Church building is located on Main Street, just west of Brighton's early commercial area, within an early residential neighborhood. The small Gothic Revival style church is a one-story red brick building with a rectangular plan measuring approximately 29 x 40 feet. The east façade faces Main Street, and the entry is on the north. Over the main sanctuary portion of the building, the wood shingled roof is a steeply pitched front gable. Toward the front of the building there is a lower pitched cross gabled roof. Toward the front of the building there is a lower pitched cross gabled roof which extends over the entry foyer and narthex. A square, roof top bell tower, which was added in 1890, dominates the northeast corner of the building. It is a wood frame structure with wood lap siding. The brick walls include cornice detailing and belt courses that are broken by pilasters that define building corners and form window bays. The brick walls of the building extend into the gable ends except in the east end of the main roof which is filled with vertical wood siding. Wood framing lancet windows are set in brick lancet arches and have stone sills. There are three evenly spaced single windows on the north and four are on the south.





BRIGHTON ARMORY

300 STRONG STREET

Historic Significance

Early in 1921, the Colorado General Assembly enacted a law appropriating funds for the construction of armories throughout the state. Any locality that wanted an armory could petition the Governor and State Military Board indicating that the people were willing to support such a military unit. The National Guard of Brighton was proposed April 25, 1921 with 40 men signing a petition. Fifteen more men were needed to successfully compete for a \$30,000 Armory.

On May 3, 1921, the Guard Unit for Brighton was completed and was mustered into service May 6, 1921 at the American Legion Hall in Brighton. Dr. J.C. McCann gave the men physical examinations and most of them passed. Company K of the 157th Colorado National Guard became a reality. Colonel Newlon of Denver mustered the men into service. H.B. Moore was elected Captain, G.A. McCann, 1st Lieutenant and Raymond Sisson was named 2nd Lieutenant.

Local Register
1/20/2009
5AM.120

1 of 12 armories
built in Colorado

Home of Company
K, 175th Infantry

Swimming pool in
the basement

Built using
Brighton's local
hydrastone

Plans for a new Armory were completed August 12, 1921. John James Huddart, a master architect, designed a plan for all of the armories to be built in Colorado. Huddart also designed the Adams County Courthouse at Fourth Avenue and Bridge Street in Brighton.

The building was used for storing arms and military equipment and to serve as the headquarters for Company K, 157th Infantry of the Colorado National Guard. A boiler and a store room for army equipment were located in the basement. Reading the blueprints, it seems the Armory was also designed to entertain the troops. There was a swimming pool in the basement with dressing rooms for men and women. The first floor included a stage, a kitchen, target range and a drill hall that could be used as an auditorium. On the second floor: dressing rooms, a balcony and a reception room.

March 22, 1922, brought the opening of the Brighton Armory. Col. P.J. Hamrock and Lt. Gov. Earl Cooley representing the state were at this formal opening and each emphasized the use of the building by the community. The state planned the purchase of radio equipment, which would bring information and music to the Armory every night. The armories were built not by taxation upon general property owners but by a flat tax of 19 cents per 1,000 upon corporations of Colorado.

Architectural Description:

Built following a standard design by John James Huddart, the Brighton Armory is one of 12 armories built in Colorado. Uniquely, it was constructed using 33,000 blocks of hydrastone manufactured by the Brighton Hydrastone Company. Hydrastone concrete masonry differs from typical concrete masonry in the use of gypsum-based cement and coal ash rather than Portland cement. Crushed quartz was used in the manufacture of hydrastone, which was known for its extreme strength and fire resistance.

The Brighton Armory was built approximately 50 x 125 feet with two stories above ground and a below grade basement. The armory of 1922 had a floor area of roughly 14,000 square feet. The building's prominent feature is two identical towers that project above the roof line on the north face. The tower walls feature small different colored glazed tiles and vertical recessed in a stucco finish above second-story windows. The towers frame the recessed main entry, surrounded by terra cotta pilasters. Above the main entry, two terra cotta tiles read "State Armory." The entry and towers are rimmed with gently rake parapets.

The rest of the ornamentation on the building used a darker gray hydrastone concrete block, including a series of small corbelled arches below the relatively plain raked cornice that tops the central bay, and a simple stringcourse above the second-story windows. The dark tinted hydrastone also was used to form the window sill and lintels at each window opening. The building possesses its original wood windows, which display a variety of glazing configurations, and most of its original wood doors. The east and west elevations are composed of 6 symmetrical bays along the Drill Hall with two more bays making up the entry. The bays are separated by hydrastone columns.

The Brighton Armory Exhibits elements of several architectural styles, rather than one clear theme. The classical entry conveys the ceremony of an important civic building, however, the towers and their narrow vertical recesses are reminiscent of a medieval fortress. In addition, the stucco finished and tile insets, as well as the plain string course and parapets characterize a mission style influence. The arched windows and arched corbelled cornice are evocative of the sturdy Romanesque Revival, popular in the late 19th Century America.



BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL

830 EAST BRIDGE STREET

Historic Significance

The first high school was constructed on 4th Avenue in 1913, when the population of Brighton was pushing 1,000 (in 1916, this school was attended by 14 students). By 1923, the population had more than tripled as a result of the growing agricultural economy and the expansion of the Kuner Pickle Co. plant (1917) and the Great Western Sugar Co. factory (1917). A December 1925 city assessment of Brighton school conditions found that the old high school had 276 students enrolled in a building that could contain only 225 seats. Brighton community leaders realized that a larger high school facility would be required to handle the growing student population, which was overloading both the limited space and teacher-per-student rations in the 1913 school building. In 1925, School District 27 successfully floated a \$175,000 bond for the construction of a new community high school. The Board of Education, along with the Superintendent of Schools, Arthur J. Foster, hired renowned Denver architect Robert K. Fuller to design the new building. The building was completed in late 1926 for a total cost of \$156,942.23, and occupied in March 1927.

National Register
1/23/1998
5AM.580

State Register
5/14/1997
5AM.580

Built in 1926 to
help overcrowding
at 1st high school

Total construction
cost was
\$156,942.23

Designed with rare
early 20th century
Byzantine style

The 1926 Brighton High School also represents a new era in small town education in Colorado. Prior to 1913, Brighton area high school students attended 19th-century rural schools. The high school constructed that year consolidated students at one central location, and the advent of the automobile (and school bus) allowed students to attend high school in Brighton from a wide geographic area. However, this building quickly became overcrowded and had to be replaced due to the tremendous growth of the Brighton area. The 1926 high school was built in response to the communities understanding of the need for quality education in a quality environment. Overcrowded conditions and limited facilities were not conducive to the proper education of their children, and the city acted quickly to replace the decade-old school with larger, more versatile structure designated for providing education in an increasingly sophisticated world. The new building offered amenities not found in the old, including more classrooms (and more teachers), a gymnasium, and an auditorium. The 1940 addition of the agricultural/wood shop building brought a vocational component to the school that enhanced its education offerings as well.

Architectural Description:

The high school building is an irregularly-shaped, two-story, flat roofed, red brick structure with blonde brick and terra cotta highlights. The overall style might best be classified as early 20th century Byzantine Revival, specifically due to the ornamental terra cotta work found on the three main (north facing) entrances, along with the brick and terra cotta work along the parapet wall. The classrooms form two north-south wings along the east and west sides of the structure, with gymnasium in the center. The auditorium extends toward the north, projecting from the center of the building. The original building was constructed on this site in 1926. The classroom wings were then extended toward the south, with additions to the west wing in 1953-1954, and the east wing in 1955-1956.





BROMLEY KOIZUMA / HISHINUMA FARM

1594 EAST BROMLEY LANE

Historic Significance

Mr. Emmet Ayers Bromley was an early settler who came to Colorado in 1877. He started this farm with 200 acres in 1883, and eventually farmed and ranched on several hundred acres of irrigated land and 8,000 acres of dry land. Emmet Bromley also built a long and distinguished record of public service. He served two terms in both the Colorado House of Representatives and the Colorado Senate. Bromley sponsored the 1901 State Senate bill that separated the northern half of Arapahoe County into Adams County, with Brighton as the County seat. Bromley died in 1922.

**National Register
8/16/2007
5AM.1841**

**Farm of Emmet
Bromley “father of
Adams County”**

**Farm of Koizumas
and Hishinumas**

**20th Century
agricultural
complex**

**123 years of
ranching and
farming history**

After passing through the Roberts family operation, the farm was sold to the Koizuma family. They and their relatives, the Hishinumas, were an Asian American family that farmed the land until 2006. Arriving in Brighton in the first years of the twentieth century, Japanese immigrants and their descendants were recruited to work for irrigation ditch construction and to labor in the sugar beet fields. As families saved money, some were able to purchase farms of their own. Typical of these families in the Brighton area, the Koizumas and Hishinumas raised sugar beets, cabbage, alfalfa and corn.

Architectural Description:

The architecture represents the full range of buildings and structures necessary for the operation of a twentieth century Colorado cattle ranch and farm. The complex provides the visual context for understanding the development of early twentieth-century ranch and farm structures. All of the primary and secondary buildings and structures essential to farm life are in their historic locations. The complex consists of a Queen Anne styled, two-story, farmhouse with an elaborately detailed interior; a 12 x 20 feet wash house; an L-shaped migrant worker house; a cistern with a 30-gallon water pressure tank; a 20' tall concrete silo; a large rectangular plan barn with two stories and a gable roof; a milk trough, and 1,000 bushel metal granary. All structures on the site are within the period of significance and qualify as contributing resources.





ADAMS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

22 SOUTH 4TH AVENUE

Historic Significance

On November 8, 1904, an election was held to determine what town would become the county seat of the newly formed Adams County. The towns of Brighton, Fletcher (Aurora), Adams City (Commerce City), Hazeltine, and Harris (Westminster), were all on the ballot. Brighton won with 1,103 votes and became the permanent county seat. On July 12, 1905 an agreement was made between Brighton and Adams County who each paid \$750 to purchase the land from D.F. Carmichael to build the new county courthouse. John James Huddart was chosen as the architect; a master architect out of Denver who had not yet been commissioned a courthouse. The building was completed May 10, 1906 and occupied by May 19. The total cost of the building came to \$41,725. As the county continued to grow the needs of government services increased, and the county applied and received a federal grant under the Public Works Administration (PWA) in 1938.

National Register
10/4/2006 5AM.92

State Register
8/31/2006 5AM.92

First Courthouse
for new Adams
County

Addition in 1939
nearly doubled the
size of the building

Over 100 years of
civic service

The grant of \$33,390 provided 45% of the total cost of the addition of \$74,200. The addition was designed to perfectly replicate the original materials and design of the original building. However, the cupola on the roof was removed and replaced with a flat roof, and a new main entrance was designed on the west entrance. The new building was completed in September of 1939.

During the decade that the Adams County Courthouse in Brighton served as the county seat of government, the Adams County Commissioners and committees met frequently there to discuss and vote upon many issues critical to the county's property functioning and development. Inside these walls, people implemented county government politics and practices and planned the future of the county. From this building, the sheriff worked to protect the community and county from a variety of hazards. The judicial courts decided the fates of individuals within the county. The first elected sheriff, J.P. Higgins, occupied his own jail for failure to pay a fine for contempt of court. The Adams County Courthouse/ Brighton City Hall has served for 100 years as the center of the county and city of Brighton in administrative and community functions. The building represents the early maturation of Adams County and Brighton into a thriving center of agriculture and commerce and its first successful democratic effort to create an adequate home for local and county services.

Architectural Description:

The original 1906 building was a two and a half story brick building. It originally held a red-tiled, sloped roof with a cupola 91 feet from the building base to the top. The building was 6,586 square feet, which doubled in size to 11,863 when the addition was built in 1939. The building is designed in a Classical Revival style with a rectangular plan oriented on an east-west axis. The base of the building exhibits a band of red decorative sandstone around the entire building. It is constructed upon a brick foundation, the exterior walls of the raised basement on all sides are faced with a locally made green glazed brick which has a recessed course every sixth course. The upper stories are comprised of red brick. The walls are topped by a white metal frieze band and white wood cornice which extend around the entire building. The interior of the building contains many of the original maple finished in doors, door frames, baseboards, and window frames.

